

SOUTHERN PIONEER.

AND CARROLL, CHOCTAW AND TALLAHATCHIE COUNTIES ADVERTISER.

By G. W. H. BROWN.

CARROLLTON, MISSISSIPPI, SATURDAY JANUARY 30, 1841.

VOL. I.—NO. 9.

Prospectus,
For publishing in the town of Carrollton, Carroll county, Miss., a weekly paper to be entitled the

Southern Pioneer,
(BY G. W. H. BROWN.)
UNDER the above title of the "SOUTHERN PIONEER," we propose to publish in the town of Carrollton, a new Weekly Paper, devoted to Politics, both State and National, Agriculture, the current news of the day, and the advancement of the great cause of Education. This paper will be devoted to what its conductor believes to be the best interests of the State and country. It will advocate the great Whig cause which you have recently seen so signally triumphant. Believing, that the principle put forth by the great Whig party as the tenets of its political creed, are the only true ones on which this Government was originally founded, and on which it should be administered, this paper will lend to those principles, whenever and wherever espoused, its humble but cordial support.

No man or set of men, will be by us unscrupulously sustained at the expense of principle. "PRINCIPLES NOT MEN," is our motto—by this rule shall we be governed, and in subjecting all to this test, we shall as we find them, judge with impartiality, admonish with candor, and reprehend with justice. As humble Pioneers in the great cause of political truth, we shall ever point to the cardinal virtues of a representative Government. But, the interests of our State, and more particularly of our country, shall receive at our hands a constant and an earnest advocacy. While our sister counties have been the object of Legislative action, and Executive patronage, the county of Carroll has remained comparatively unknown and unappreciated. It shall therefore be our pride, as well as our duty, to develop its vast resources and point out its numerous advantages. The cause of education, the cause of enlightened and progressive civilization, the only true bulwark of a nation's freedom, shall receive that attention its importance demands. In fine, as humble Pioneers in the great crusade against ignorance and error, we shall shoulder our mattock and shovel, and taking our place in the great march of modern improvement, our course shall ever be as Marathon said to Stanley, "ONWARD."

TERMS.—The "PIONEER" will be published every Saturday morning at FIVE DOLLARS in advance, or SIX DOLLARS at the expiration of six months, or SIX DOLLARS FIFTY at the end of the year.

ADVERTISEMENTS inserted at the rate of ONE DOLLAR per square (eight lines) for the first, and FIFTY CENTS for each subsequent insertion. The number of insertions must be marked upon the MS. or it will be published until ordered out, and charged accordingly.

Articles of a personal nature, whenever admitted will be charged at double the above rates. Political circulars or public addresses, for the benefit of individual or companies, charged as advertisements.

Announcing candidates for office \$10 each.

YEARLY ADVERTISING.—For forty lines, or less, renewable at pleasure, each week, \$65.

Bills for advertising are due when the work is done, and MUST be paid whenever called for.

JOBS.—In connection with the PIONEER Office, is a large assortment of new and fashionable FANCY TYPE, which enables us to execute all orders for Job Printing in fine style. We solicit patronage in this line, at prices the same as other well regulated offices in Mississippi. Orders from Attorneys, Clerks, Sheriffs, &c., promptly attended to.

ALL JOB WORK—CASH.

* Letters or Communications to the publisher must be POST-PAYED, or they will not be taken out.

CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

The following is the correspondence alluded to a short time since by the Correspondent of the "Sentinel & Chronicle" published at Augusta, (Ga.)

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

I herewith transmit to the House of Representatives a report from the Secretary of State, with accompanying papers, in answer to their resolution of the 21st inst.

M. VAN BUREN.

Washington, Dec. 28, 1840.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, Dec. 28, 1840.

SIR:—The Secretary of State, to whom has been referred the resolution of the House of Representatives, dated the 21st instant requesting the President "to communicate to that House, if not in his opinion incompatible with the public interest, all the correspondence between this Government and that of Great Britain, or the officers or agents of either, or the officers and agent of this Government with the President or any of its departments, which has not heretofore been communicated to that House, on the subject of the outrage of burning the Caroline on the Niagara frontier; and whether there is any prospect of compensation being made to the owner of said boat for the loss thereof; and, also whether any communications have been made to this Government in regard to the arrest and imprisonment of—McLeod, by the authorities of the State of New York, for being concerned in said outrage; and, if so, that he communicate a copy thereof to that House," has the honor to report to the President, in answer to that resolution, the accompanying papers. Respectfully submitted,

JOHN FORSYTH.

To the President of the United States of America.

Mr. Stevenson, to Mr. Forsyth—Extract.
LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
London, July 2, 1839.

I regret to say that no answer has yet been given to my note in the case of the "Caroline." I have not deemed it proper under the circumstances to press the subject without further instructions from your Department. If it is the wish of the Government that I should do so, I pray to be informed of it, and the degree of urgency that I am to adopt.

Mr. Forsyth, to Mr. Stevenson—Extract.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, 11th Sept. 1839.

With reference to the closing paragraph of your communication to the Department, dated the 2nd of July last, (No. 74.) it is proper to inform you that no instructions are at present required for again bringing forward the question of the "Caroline." I have had frequent conversations with Mr. Fox in regard to this subject—one of very recent date—and from its tone, the President expects the British Government will answer your application in the case without much farther delay.

Mr. Fox to Mr. Forsyth.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13, 1840.

SIR:—I am informed by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, that Mr. Alexander McLeod, a British subject, a late deputy sheriff of the Niagara district in Upper Canada, was arrested at Lewiston in the State of New York, on the 12th of last month, on a pretended charge of murder and arson, as having been engaged in the capture and destruction of the piratical steamboat "Caroline." In the month of December, 1837. After a tedious and vexatious examination, Mr. McLeod was committed for trial, and is now imprisoned in Lockport jail.

I feel it my duty to call upon the Government of the United States to take prompt and effectual steps for the liberation of Mr. McLeod. It is well known that the destruction of the steamboat "Caroline" was a public act of persons in her Majesty's service, obeying the order of their superior authorities. That act, therefore, according to the usages of nations, can only be the subject of discussion between the two National Governments. It cannot justly be made the ground of legal proceedings in the United States against the individuals concerned, who were bound to obey the authorities appointed by their own Government.

I may add that I believe it is quite notorious that Mr. McLeod was not one of the party engaged in the destruction of the steamboat "Caroline;" and that the pretended charge upon which he was imprisoned rests only upon the perjured testimony of certain Canadian outlaws and their abettors, who, unfortunately, or the peace of that neighborhood, are permitted by the authorities of the State of New York to infest the Canadian frontier.

The question, however, of whether Mr. McLeod was or was not concerned in the destruction of the "Caroline," is beside the purpose of the present communication. That act was the public act of persons obeying the constituted authorities of her Majesty's Province. The National Government of the U. States thought themselves called upon to remonstrate against it; and a remonstrance which the President did accordingly address to her Majesty's Government, is still, I believe, a pending subject of diplomatic discussion between her Majesty's Government and the United States Legation in London. I feel therefore, justified in expecting that the President's Government will see the justice and the necessity of causing the present immediate release of Mr. McLeod, as well as of taking such steps as may be requisite for the preventing others of her Majesty's subjects from being persecuted or molested in the United States in a similar manner for the future.

It appears that McLeod was arrested on the 12th ultimo; that after the examination of witnesses, he was finally committed for trial on the 18th, and placed in confinement in the jail of Lockport, awaiting the assizes, which will be held there in February next. As the case is naturally occasioning a great degree of excitement and indignation with the British frontier, I earnestly hope that it may be in your power to give me an early and satisfactory answer to the present representation.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

H. S. FOX.

Hon. JOHN FORSYTH, &c. &c.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Fox.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 26, 1840.

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge, and have laid before the President your letter of the 13th instant, touching the arrest and imprisonment of Alexander McLeod, a British subject, and late Deputy Sheriff of the Niagara District in Upper Canada, on a charge of murder and arson, as having been engaged in the capture and destruction of the steamboat "Caroline," in the month of December 1837; in respect to which you state that you feel it your duty to call upon the Government of the United States to take prompt and effectual steps for the liberation of Mr. McLeod, and to prevent others of the subjects of her Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain from being persecuted or molested in a similar manner, for the future.

The demand, with the grounds upon which it is made, has been duly considered by the President, with a sincere desire to give to it such a reply as will not only manifest a proper regard for the character and rights of the United States, but, at the same time tend to preserve the amicable relations which, so advantageously for both, subsist between this country and England. Of the reality of this disposition, and of the uniformity with which it has been evinced in the many delicate and

difficult questions which have arisen between the two countries in the last few years, no one can be more convinced than yourself. It is then with unfeigned regret that the President finds himself unable to recognise the validity of a demand, a compliance with which you deem so material to the preservation of the good understanding which has been hitherto manifested between the countries.

The jurisdiction of the several States which constitute the Union is within its appropriate sphere, perfectly independent of the Federal Government. The offence with which Mr. McLeod is charged was committed within the territory, and against the laws and citizens of the State of New York, and is one that comes clearly within the competency of her tribunals. It does not, therefore, present an occasion where, under the Constitution and laws of the Union, the interposition called for would be proper, for which a warrant can be found in the powers with which the Federal Executive is invested. Nor would the circumstances to which you have referred, or the reasons you have urged, justify the exertion of such a power, if it existed.

The transaction out of which the question arises, presents the case of a most unjustifiable invasion, in time of peace, of a portion of the territory of the United States, by a band of armed men from the adjacent territory of Canada, the forcible capture by them within our own waters, and the subsequent destruction of a steamboat, the property of a citizen of the United States, and the murder of one or more American citizens. If arrested at the time, the offenders might unquestionably have been brought to justice by the judicial authorities of the State within whose acknowledged territory these crimes were committed; and their subsequent voluntary entrance within that territory, places them in the same situation. The President is not aware of any principle of international law, or indeed of reason or justice, which entitles such offenders to impunity before the legal tribunals, when coming voluntarily within their independent and undoubted jurisdiction, because, they acted in obedience to their superior authorities, or because their acts have become the subject of diplomatic discussion between the two Governments. These methods of redress, the legal prosecution of the offenders, and the application of their Government for satisfaction, are independent of each other, and may be separately and simultaneously pursued. The avowal or justification of the outrage by the British authorities might be a ground of complaint with the Government of the United States, distinct from the violation of the territory and laws of the State of New York. The application of the Government of the Union to that of Great Britain, for the redress of an authorized outrage of the peace, dignity, and rights of the United States, cannot deprive the State of New York of her undoubted right of vindicating, through the exercise of her judicial power, the property and lives of her citizens.

You have properly regarded the alleged absence of Mr. McLeod from the scene of the offence at the time when it was committed, as not material to the decision of the present question. That is a matter to be decided by legal evidence; and the sincere desire of the President is, that it may be satisfactorily established. If the destruction of the Caroline was a public act of persons in her Majesty's service, obeying the order of their superior authorities, this fact has not been before communicated to the Government of the United States by a person authorized to make the admission; and it will be for the court which has taken cognizance of the offence with which Mr. McLeod is charged, to decide upon its validity when legally established before it.

The President deems this to be a proper occasion to remind the Government of her Britannic Majesty that the case of the "Caroline" has been long since brought to the attention of her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who, up to this day, has not communicated its decision thereupon. It is hoped that the Government of her Majesty will perceive the importance of no longer leaving the Government of the United States uninformed of its views and intentions upon a subject which has naturally produced much exasperation, and which has led to such grave consequences.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

H. S. Fox, Esq., &c. &c.

THE FATE OF GENIUS.

Having just been reviewing the lives of several eminent scholars, says the New York Sun, we have been forcibly impressed with the fact that, oftentimes, exalted genius—genius which could command the respect and admiration of a world, has been intimately allied to distressing poverty—poverty that crippled its energies—chilled its fervent aspirations after fame, and pressed, with an icy hand, like the nightmare upon its soaring thoughts.

Too little do the mass of the reading public know at what cost their mental gratification is often provided—at what a sacrifice their intellectual banquet is spread. While they are perhaps almost convulsed with laughter at the bright sallies and flashes of wit—while they admire the pungent and home-thrust acuteness of satiric humor—while they melt into tears over the thrilling pathos which gushes up from the deep and full fountains of a sensitive soul, they little think that their favorite author, who

has so delighted them, is, perhaps, at the very moment in which they are praising his production, the inmate of some miserable garret, pale with intense study, shivering over a few smoking brands without the comforts and necessities and conveniences of life, and pining away in wretched indigence. Little do they think that while they perhaps, were reposing sweetly upon a bed of down and locked in gentle and dreaming slumber, he, by the feeble glimmering of a farthing rushlight, which he had expended his last penny to purchase, penned for their perusal and delight the "thoughts that breathe and words that burn" with pathetic fervor.

Not, however, unfortunate is always the fate of genius. Sometimes its bark happens to be launched upon a flood tide wave, and by it is borne onward and upward, to a glorious destiny. Would that such a happy contingency could be the lot of all the deserving.—Would that those whose eloquent and fervid thoughts the public admire, could reap but a tithe of the pecuniary advantage which is often derived from their productions. But this is seldom the case. The bookseller, or some one else, who never wasted his health and energies over the midnight lamp, makes a fortune from some splendid effort of genius, while the fated author is either doomed to chilling poverty, or is moulding in the common receptacle of morality, unconscious of the rapturous applause which is bestowed upon his talents.

MR. DOW, JR., ON WALTZING.—When I see a chap hugg'd up to a girl, performing constant revolutions at the rate of 10 to a minute, I can't help suspecting that he is trying to get round her in a very nonsensical way. O, this waltzing is a silly piece of business. A puppy whirling round after his tail, makes a more respectable appearance than a couple of our Heavenly Father's images in the ludicrous position of waltzing. If dancing must be done at all, I say let it be done decently and in order.

DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Society of Copenhagen, some further evidence was presented of a character tending to show that the continent of America was discovered by the Scandinavians, long anterior to the time of Columbus. Dr. Lund, an eminent Danish Geologist, announced that in an excavation he caused to be made in the environs of Bahia, Brazil, he found the fragment of a flat stone, covered with roined characters, deeply engraved, but much damaged. Having succeeded after long research in deciphering some words, which he discovered to belong to the Island language, he caused the excavation to be extended in all directions; and he soon discovered the foundation of a house, in cut stone, which from the architectural affinity strongly resembled the ruins which exist in the North of Norway, in the island, and upon the western coast of Greenland. He caused a continuation of the excavation for several successive days, and finished by finding the statue of the god Thor, (God of Thunder, of the ancient Scandinavians,) with all his attributes; the hammer, the gauntlets, and the magic girdle. The Society ordered a full report of these discoveries to be published under the direction of Professor Rafo.—Sat. Chron.

FROM THE NEW YORKER.

THE BOOK OF MORMON.

One of the greatest literary curiosities of the day is the much abused "Book of Mormon." That a work of the kind should be planned, executed and given to the scrutiny of the world by an illiterate young man of twenty; that it should gain numerous and devoted partisans, here and in Europe, and that it should agitate a whole State to such a degree that law, justice and humanity were set aside to make a war of extermination on the new sect, seems scarcely credible in the nineteenth century and under this liberal Government; yet such is the fact.

The believers in the book of Mormon now number well nigh 50,000 souls in America, to say nothing of numerous congregations in Great Britain. They style themselves Latter Day Saints, as it is a prominent point in their faith that the world is soon to experience a great and final change. They believe, and insist upon believing, literally, the Old and New Testament; but they also hold that there are various other inspired writings; which, in due seasons, will be brought to light. Some of these (the Book of Mormon for example) are even now appearing, after having been lost for ages. They think that in the present generation will be witnessed the final gathering together of all the true followers of Christ into one fold of peace and purity—in other words, that the Millennium is near. Setting aside the near approach of the Millennium and the Book of Mormon, they resemble in faith and discipline the Methodists, and their meetings are marked by the fervid simplicity that characterizes that body of Christians. It is in believing the Book of Mormon inspired that the chief difference consists; but it must be admitted that this is an important distinction.

This is their own declaration of faith in that point: A young man named Joseph Smith, in the western part of New York, guided, as he says, by Divine Inspiration, found, in 1830, a kind of stone chest or vault containing a number of thin plates of gold held together by a ring, on which they were all strung, and engraved with unknown characters. The char-

acters the Mormons believe to be the ancient Egyptian, and that Smith was enabled by inspiration to translate them—in part only, however, for the plates are not entirely given in English—This translation is the Book of Mormon, and so far it is a faint and distant parallel of the Koran. In much the same way Mahomet presented his code of religion to his followers, and on that authority the sceptre-sword of Islamism now sways the richest and widest realms that ever bowed to one faith. But the Mormons have a very different career before them: their faith is opposed to all violence, and, from the nature of their peculiar doctrines, they must soon die of themselves if they are wrong. If the appointed signs that are to announce the approach of the Millennium do not take place immediately, the Latter-Day Saints must, by their own showing, be mistaken, and their faith falls quietly to the ground. So, to persecute them merely for opinion's sake is as useless as it would be unjust and impolitic.

The Book of Mormon purports to be a history of a portion of the Children of Israel, who found their way to this Continent after the first destruction of Jerusalem. It is continued from generations by a succession of prophets, and gives in different books an account of the wars and alliances among the various branches of the Lost Nation. The Golden Book is an abridgement by Mormon the last of the prophets, of all the works of his predecessors.

The style is a close imitation of the scriptural, and is remarkably free from any allusions that might betray a knowledge of the present political or social state of the world. The writer lives in the whole strength of his imagination in the age he portrays. It is difficult to imagine a more difficult literary task than to write what may be termed a continuation of the Scriptures, that should not only avoid all collision with the authentic and sacred word, but even fill up many chasms that now seem to exist, and thus receive and lend confirmation in almost every book.

To establish a plausibly-sustained theory that the aborigines of our Continent are descendants of Israel without committing himself by any assertion or description that could be contradicted, shows a degree of talent and research that in an uneducated youth of twenty is almost a miracle in itself.

A copy of the characters on some of the golden leaves, was transmitted to a learned gentleman of this city, who of course was unable to decipher them, but thought they bore a resemblance to the ancient Egyptian character.

If on comparison it appears that these characters are similar to those recently discovered on those ruins in Central America which have attracted so much attention lately and which are decidedly of Egyptian architecture, it will make a strong point for Smith. It will tend to prove that the plates are genuine, even if it does not establish the truth of his inspiration, or the fidelity of his translation.

In any case our Constitution throws its protectingegis over every religious doctrine. If the Mormons have violated the law, let the law deal with the criminals; but let not a mere opinion, however absurd and delusive it may be, call forth a spirit of persecution. Persecution harsh daughter of Cruelty and Ignorance, can never find a home in a heart truly republican. Opinion is a house hold god, and in this land her shrine is inviolate.

JOSEPHINE.

A man swearing the peace against three of his sons, thus concluded the affidavit—"And this deponent farther saith, that the only one of his children, who showed him any real affection, was his youngest son Larry, for he never struck him when he was down."

TALL LODGINGS.—The highest inhabited places in the known world are in Peru. The cottages at the source of the Ancornorca are 15,720 feet above the level of the sea. The village of Tacora is 14,275 feet high. Potosi, once containing a population of 150,000, is 14,000 feet above the level of the sea.

Rich relations are generally distant acquaintances; like the great bear in the museum, to be looked at and admired, but not approached.

The Legislature of Kentucky have passed several Resolutions in relation to a National Bank, recommending the chartering of such an institution. There was but a slight opposition manifested against their passage.

"LEGITIMATE" DRAMA.—The New Orleans Crescent City has the following, which will be one of the happiest hits at the present taste for theatrical amusements, that we have ever read:

"Preparations are being made to bring out with all despatch, at one of our theatres, a new piece, entitled 'Sanco Panza and his Ass.' A beautiful jackass, which may be seen in our enclosure, on St. Charles street, is in training—the scene on the stage where he kicks up in the face of the heroine, is said to be exquisite. The first act concludes with the descent, tail foremost, of the jackass, from the extreme height of the theatre. In the last act the animal will bray Yankee Doodle with variations. The recent great success of horse pieces, has induced a literary gentleman to prepare this splendid play."—Sat. Chron.

Alexander Barrow has been elected United States Senator from Louisiana.